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Lt. Governor Skillman Announces \$10 Million Grant to Convert Vehicle Fleets

INDIANAPOLIS –Lt. Governor Becky Skillman today announced the state has been awarded \$10.1 million federal grant to convert hundreds of state and city vehicles to run on alternative fuels. The Office of Energy Development had sought \$11.5 million of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's \$300 million available to states for this purpose. Indiana was one of only 25 states to meet the application deadline.

"This is another step toward the production and use of more Hoosier Homegrown Energy," Lt. Governor Skillman said. "This grant will allow us to continue helping our state's biofuel industry, save the state money, and allow us to do more, faster."

In 2005, Governor Mitch Daniels signed a bill requiring state vehicles to use biofuels whenever feasible. That includes both ethanol and biodiesel. The state's participation helps support Hoosier farmers and the state's 17 biofuel production facilities and over 130 filling stations.

The biggest beneficiary of the grant money will be INDOT. Based on the original \$11.5 million application, INDOT would have converted 682 light duty trucks to run on bi-fuel propane (bi-fuel vehicles can also run on gasoline or diesel) and 64 dump trucks to run on compressed natural gas. Other beneficiaries include the City of Indianapolis (74 vehicles), Fort Wayne (9 vehicles), Bloomington (6 vehicles), Indianapolis Airport Authority (4 shuttle buses), and Sysco Foods (57 tractors and 18 trucks).

The grant will also fund the installation of 13 E85 pumps and three natural gas pumps, some of which will be available for public use as well as government use.

The funds will be administered by the Indiana Office of Energy Development, which the Lt. Governor oversees, and be managed by the Central Indiana Clean Cities Alliance (CICCA).

"CICCA has been one of the state's strongest partners in our push to improve our air quality and reduce our dependence on foreign oil through the use of alternative energy," Lt. Governor Skillman said. "I want to thank them and all of our partners in this grant application."

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Lt. Governor Skillman oversees Indiana's Office of Energy Development, and Gov. Daniels appointed her to the task force overseeing stimulus dollars being spent in the state. For updates from the Lt. Governor and the agencies she oversees, please sign up at www.lg.in.gov.